



LARC



Volume 48, Number 8

August 2008

President's Message

Well looks like the "dog days of summer" have settled in. The temperatures are rising, and the rain seems quite far away. However, ham radio is in full swing. Both 10 meters and 6 meters has shown great activity with the sporadic E openings. I worked the NAQP RTTY contest 2 weeks ago, and worked more stations on 10m and 15m, than I have in quite some time. 20 meters has been staying open to nearly midnight, with great signals coming from over the poles.

Summer is the time to try new things. If you're primarily an SSB op, try CW. If you're a CW operator, try something digital. If you have questions, email me direct, call me on the radio, or save them up for the club meetings. That's one of the primary missions for the club to do at the meetings. We always here to help other members in the club.

It looks like we may be loosing a couple of our active club members due to job changes and re-locating. Stratos Imvriotis KE5I has a new position back in his home country Greece. Dick Melcher WA6MDI will probably be relocating if he cannot find another cooperate flying position locally. Both of these guys are very knowledgeable in amateur radio and passed some of their experience to others. We will greatly miss these guys and their XYL's.

Don't forget VE testing at 6:00 pm and the general meeting at 7:00 pm Thursday, August 7th. Door prizes and refreshments.

73
Charlie
KI5XP
AARA President

AARA Field Day Report



AARA 2008 Field Day Entry to the ARRL

Call Used: **W5DDL** GOTA Station Call: **(none)** ARRL/RAC Section: **LA** Class: **1A**
Participants: **42** Club/Group Name: **ACADIANA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Score Summary:

Total QSOs	CW 760	Digital 0	Phone 0	Total 1520	Claimed Score = 3,040
Total Points	1520	0	0		

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW		Digital		Phone		
	80m	QSOs 135	Pwr(W) 100	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)
40m	421						
20m	163						
15m	41						
Total	760			0		0	



Charlie KI5XP interviewed by news reporter



Antenna crew setting up for Field Day 2008



Hungry mouths being fed at Field Day

DATES TO REMEMBER**REGULAR MEETING**

Thursday August 7th @ 7:00 PM
 Red Cross Building - 101 N. Pat St.
 VE Testing @ 6:00 PM - Door Prizes

HAMFEST SCHEDULE

WCLARC Hamfest—Leesville, LA
 August 9, 2008

Local 2-Meter Nets**Sunday**

Opelousas Area ARA Net 7:00 PM
 146.820 Lafayette, LA

Monday

AARA Net 7:00 PM
 146.820 Lafayette, LA
 Acadia Parish ARES Net 8:00 PM
 147.240 pl 127.3 Crowley, LA

Tuesday

Acadiana ARES Net 7:00 PM
 145.370 - 600 PL 103.5
 YL/XYL / Filly Net 7:00 PM
 146.820 Lafayette, LA

Wednesday

Vermillion Parish ARES Net 8:00 PM
 147.060 Abbeville, LA

Friday

HEAL Net 1st & 3rd Fridays Only 1:00 PM
 146.820 Lafayette, LA

AARA OFFICERS 2008-2009

President - Charlie Morrison KI5XP

ki5xp@w5ddl.org

Vice Pres - Dick Melcher WA6MDI

Secretary - Randy Castille N5MLJ

Treasurer - Joy Breaux N5YCS

BOARD MEMBERS

John Martin KA5BSE

Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF

Glenn Breaux KD5NVC

Public Relations Officer

Dagmar Whittemore KE5CGN

Newsletter Editor

Herman Campbell KN5GRK

**LAFAYETTE SALVATION ARMY
GETS NEW 2 METER RADIO**

When Major John Queener KD5OJT was commanding officer in Lafayette, the Salvation Army was using his personal Icom 2100H for 2 meter communications at Salvation Army station (K5LSA). Recently, Major Queener received transfer orders to take over the Salvation Army in Orange, TX. This is pretty well standard procedures with the SA to have numerous re-locations of officers every three to five years. To make a long story short, he took his Icom 2100 H with him to Orange, after all, it was his.

A group of amateur radio operators were chatting during Field Day, one of them happened to be D. J. (DJ) Bergeron N5HVY of Lafayette. DJ volunteered to finance the purchase of a new 2 meter radio for the Salvation Army. He asked John Martin KA5BSE and myself to check around for a good reasonable priced reliable radio. After considerable search of radio dealers, it was decided to purchase the Yaesu 1802M from GigaParts.com. This radio was on sale for a nice price. The radio was ordered and delivered on Thursday July 17th.

The radio was checked out and installed on Thursday July 24th at the Salvation Army radio station with all the area repeaters programmed into the radio.

This radio may play a important role, as we are into hurricane season, by providing communications to area hospitals, shelters, EOC and other emergency agencies.

THANKS !

D. J. (DJ) Bergeron N5HVY
 for
Your Donation !

Herman Campbell KN5GRK
 SATERN Member

Nick Pugh's K5QXJ Progress Report

As of August 1st, Nick has been home for 12 days after spending 87 days in the hospital and rehab after his fall from 2nd story balcony of his camp at Cypremort Point, LA. Nick was pretty well banged up, breaking both ankles, both wrists, knee damage and some rib fractures just to name a few.

Nick still has a long way to go at this time but he is taking it in stride and making progress each day. Modification to his QTH are being made in order to accommodate Nick's condition. He is now getting on 2 meters almost daily using his HT but is working on making it upstairs to his shack to get on HF. He is managing to make some car trips to the office and to visit some friends via a personal chauffeur to drive him around and help get him in and out of the vehicle.

His XYL JoAnn KE5RPL has stood by Nick all the way through his ordeal and keeps us posted via the internet. You might want to read the reports in detail every few days at the following web link:

<http://www.w5ddl.org/clubsite/news.htm>

The **LARC** is published monthly by the:
Acadiana Amateur Radio Association

P. O. Box 51174
 Lafayette, Louisiana 70505-1174

Regular meetings 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the American Red Cross Building 101 North Pat Street Scott, LA

Moving from Analog to Digital TV

By Scott Nesbitt - Sunday, July 6, 2008

Permission granted to reprint by: Michael Buonomo Geeks.com

Essentially, your TV will be dark when you turn it on after the February, 2009 deadline.

By this time in 2009, television as you know it will have changed. It's not that the quality of what you're watching will be any better or any worse (although you'd hope that TV shows will get better!). It's how you're getting those programs over the air that's going to change.

This TechTip looks at the coming changes to the way in which you get your over-the-air TV and what you can do to adapt.

What's going to happen?

The United States Senate has told broadcasters that they'll have to end their analog transmissions by midnight on February 17, 2009. Broadcasters, at least those with full-power television stations, will have to broadcast all programming in digital.

According to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC):

[D]igital is a more efficient transmission technology that allows broadcast stations to offer improved picture and sound quality, as well as offer more programming options for consumers through multiple broadcast streams (multicasting).

Notice I said full-power television stations earlier. Analog TV will still be available, mainly through local stations and ones in certain urban and rural areas which relay transmissions from larger broadcasters to smaller markets.

In case you're wondering what's going to happen to the analog frequencies that digital is replacing, they'll be used for emergency services and to provide expanded wireless and wireless broadband services.

Regardless, the move to all-digital is seen by many as a good thing. It will really improve your viewing experience.

What's the difference between analog and digital?

The biggest difference is quality. Digital looks and sounds better than analog. Here's a short comparison of how both of them work.

Analog TV, which is what those without satellite or cable grew up with, works by grabbing transmissions out of the air in the same way a radio grabs radio waves. This explains the need for an antenna outside your home or the so-called rabbit ear antennas on top of a set. An analog transmission starts as a set of moving images taken by a video camera at about 30 frames per second. The camera converts the images into a set of pixels, and gives each of those pixels a color and a level of intensity ranging from dim to bright.

The pixels are combined into horizontal and vertical rows that an analog TV can interpret, and a sound signal is added. The video and sound are then converted to radio waves of specific frequencies (depending on the channels you're watching) and sent over the air where your TV can pick them up using an antenna.

Analog TV works, but it's not great (as you probably know) and it's far from efficient. The resolution is nothing to write home about, and the signal itself can suffer from interference -- the all-too-familiar snow and static.

Digital TV (sometimes called DTV), on the other hand, is far more efficient and the quality is higher. Whereas analog TV is made up of pixels, digital TV is made up of packets of compressed data -- if you've watched YouTube or Hulu (or any other online video), then you've seen digital video in action. But unlike many online videos, digital TV isn't fuzzy or distorted. The compression is unobtrusive but has an interesting side effect.

Broadcasters can pack more information and more image and sound resolution into a digital transmission than into an analog one. So much so, that a digital broadcast can contain what are called subchannels. Each subchannel can carry a different program without using additional bandwidth. That's the multicasting that the FCC mentioned earlier. On top of that, digital transmissions aren't affected by interference -- say goodbye to snow!

How is this change going to affect me?

In two ways. First, the good way. The programs that you watch will have clearer, sharper video and crisper audio. They'll be about on par with the audio and visual quality of cable or satellite TV. Best of all, you won't need to pay the high prices of cable or satellite TV services. Networks have been broadcasting their programs in digital for the last couple of years, in parallel with their analog broadcasts.

(continued on page 4 column 1)



WEST CENTRAL LOUISIANA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 33rd ANNUAL HAMFEST

Date: August 9, 2008

Location: First United Methodist Church, 202 N. 5th Street, Leesville, LA

Admission: \$5.00

Time: 7:30 AM—1:00 PM

Talk-in: 145.310 PL 203.5

Main Prizes:

1st - ICOM 718 HF Transceiver

2nd - YAESU FT 8800R Dual Band Mobile

3rd - ICOM T7H Dual Band HT

4th - KENWOOD TM-271A 2M Mobile

Tickets are \$1.00 each for Main Prizes (do not have to be present to win).

Door prize tickets: \$1.00 ea or 6 for \$5.00.

Main Distributor: Houston Amateur Radio Supply

Dealer setup time: Aug 8, 5 pm to 6:30 pm.

Flea Market Tables: 1st one is free, additional tables are \$5.00.

Special Drawing: Dell Laptop Computer - Tickets are \$1.00 ea.

W5YI / VE Testing @ 9:30 am. W5JPJ VEC.

Forums: TBA

Contacts:

E-mail: Josie W5JPJ

w5jpj@cebridge.net
337-392-9918

For advance tickets:

Bill Garvey, PO Box 77, Leesville, LA 71446

E-mail: wagjr@bellsouth.net

Refreshments:

Breakfast Buffet

Lunch: Hot Dogs with Chili, Hamburgers, and Red Beans & Rice (with cornbread and onions).

GPS Settings:

N 31.143989, W - 93.263800

WCLARC Website:

<http://www.wclarc.com>

Moving from Analog to Digital TV (from page 3 column 1)

The bad way: if you have an older analog TV, you won't be able to pick up over-the-air digital transmissions. Essentially, your TV will be dark when you turn it on after the February, 2009 deadline.

What can I do?

While your old set will not be able to pick up over-the-air TV, it won't be a useless pile of electronics sitting in your living room. You'll still be able to use it to watch cable and satellite TV, as well as to hook your DVD player or VCR into it. You should really determine whether or not your TV has a digital tuner.

If you're not sure whether or not your TV is digital ready, check the back of the set. Newer digital-capable TVs -- including all sets that have been sold since March 1, 2008 -- often have a sticker with wording like Built in digital tuner or DTV ready. If you don't see the sticker, or are still not 100% certain then check the manufacturer's Web site for the model number of your TV.

If you have an older analog set have two options. First, you can go out and buy a new digital television. A new set can set you back anywhere from about \$450 to \$1,200 or more. If that's more than you can afford, then you might want to go with option 2: get a converter box.

A converter box is a gadget that hooks into your analog TV and converts the digital signal into a format that your old TV can understand. Converter boxes are a lot cheaper than a new digital TV -- they cost anywhere from \$50 to \$75 dollars. While you won't get the same experience that you would with a television with a built-in digital tuner, the picture and sound quality will be superior to old school analog broadcasts.

Since the government got you into this, it's helping you out with the TV Converter Box Coupon Program. Between now and March 31, 2009, you can apply for two coupons worth \$40 that will help defray the costs of the digital converters. The coupon program is being administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and you can find out more at their Web site devoted to the program (<http://www.dtv.gov>). There's also a good FAQ at the site which should answer any of your questions.

And what about those analog transmissions that I mentioned earlier in this TechTip? Well, there could be a problem with some converter boxes. Certain models don't allow analog transmissions to flow through to a TV. If you're in an area that has both digital and analog signals, and want to view both types of programming, ensure that the converter box you buy has analog pass through capability.

Conclusion

Whether you like it or not, the way in which you get your over-the-air TV will be changing. And soon. If you're an avid TV watcher, this is definitely a good thing. You'll be able to watch programs with better quality audio and video, and won't have to worry about paying extra for cable or satellite. Even if you have to buy a converter box, the government's coupon program will help defray your costs -- you'll be getting higher-quality TV for a low price.

August 2008 Special Events & Contests

August 9	W1BIM - Smokey Bears 65 th Birthday. Stow, MA
August 9-10	K4S - Highest Point in Kansas. Sunflower, KS
August 14-17	N7C - Navajo Code Talkers. Window Rock, AZ
August 16	W2AMC - 36 th Annual Popcorn Festival from the Popcorn Capitol of the World. Van Buren, IN
August 16-17	Lighthouse / Lightship Weekend. Many lighthouse and lightships will be working all bands during the weekend.
August 16-17	North American QSO Party. Phone
August 21-24	KØS - WW2-LST 325 Ship in Hannibal, MO
August 30	W4OVH - Civil War Battle of 2 nd Manassas (Bull Run). Manassas, VA.
August 30	SCC RTTY Championship. RTTY

These are just a few of the Special Events & Contests for August. Check the August 2008 issue of QST page 74, 80 and 81 for more listings of Special Events and Contests or visit the ARRL website at: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>



8/2	ROBERT	N5OA
8/15	DICK	WA6MDI
8/24	ESTHER	N6YOP
8/27	PHOEBE	KC5VRN
8/30	JOHN	KX5JT



Some members failed to put their birthdays on their applications for renewal / membership applications, this is why some may not be on the list.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

D. J. (DJ) Bergeron - N5HVY
Harold Beckler - KE5UPL

If you are interested in joining the AARA, you can go to our website at:

<http://www.w5ddl.org/>

Just click on "Membership Application", download the .PDF file, fill it out along with the proper fees and mail it in.

HELP KEEP AMATEUR RADIO ALIVE IN ACADIANA!

Antenna Party

On Wednesday, May 5, 2008, an antenna party took place at the QTH of Weston Hebert, KB5WI in Indian Bayou. A TET 5 element tri-bander, two 11 element co-phased 2 Meter antennas, a Ringo Ranger at 75 ft., a HAM III Rotor, 5 runs of RG8 Coax and Thrust Bearing were removed from a 70 ft. Rohn 25 tower. Also removed was guy wire, antenna connections that were used for 75 and 40 Meters. Start time was at Noon and finished time was at 3:30 pm.

KB5WI was tower climber. Pretty good for an "ole timer" up there for three hours. Ground crew included: Nick KE5MWX, Monte KE5TEY and Arnold KE5JXC. Weston's brother, Doc, was official photographer.

Unfortunately, no pictures were taken of ground crew, did not want to damage camera. Hi-Hi

73
Arnold & Weston
KE5JXC KB5WI

Weston Hebert KB5WI
Working at 75 feet on Rohn
25 tower.



LAFAYETTE SALVATION ARMY GETS NEW OFFICER

by Herman Campbell - KN5GRK

Captain Jon-Phil Winter is the new head of the Lafayette Salvation Army replacing Major John Queener KD5OJT who is now the Salvation Army officer in charge in Orange, TX. Captain Winter hails from the UK, near London but has been in the US off and on for several years. I really don't know much about his history at this time but I do know that he is 35 years old and "SINGLE" and seems to like Cajun food and strong coffee. He wears his hair a little "spiked" and has a slight "UK" accent.

I mentioned to the Captain that I plan to do a little article on him for the club newsletter and he told me not to lay it on him too heavy as if I was writing for "e-Harmony.com" hi hi.

Captain Winter is not a ham radio operator at this time but I plan to work on that in the near future. Right now is up to his ears learning the ropes at his new appointment.

HEAL NET

Be sure to check in on the HEAL NET every 1st and 3rd Friday of each month at 1:00 PM local time on the 146.820 repeater in Lafayette. Larry KE5KJD is our Net Control Station at this time but will appreciate anyone wising to help out as NCS on occasions.

July 2008 HEAL Net Report

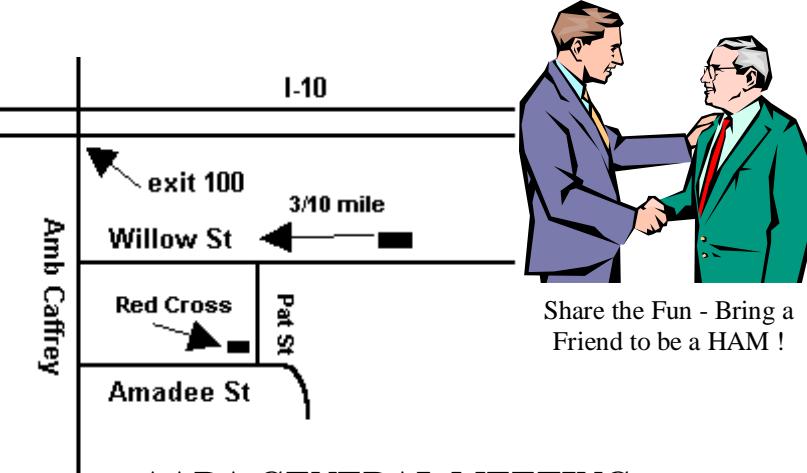
DATE:	Medical Personnel	Guest	Medical Facilities	Time / Traffic
7/04/08	3	8	3	9 min/ 0
7/18/08	4	3	4	12 min/0



DOING
THE MOST
GOODSM

Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.
P. O. Box 51174
Lafayette, LA 70505-1174

Website: <http://www.w5ddl.org>



AARA GENERAL MEETING
Thursday August 7th, 2008—7:00 PM
(see inside)
VE Testing at 6:00 PM
Red Cross Building, 101 N. Pat St., Scott, LA
Lunch Bunch 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**COMPLEMENTARY
ISSUE**

BANANA, PINEAPPLE CREAM CHEESE PIE

(Great for a Summertime Desert. Yummy)

1 small can crushed pineapple (well drained)	1/2 cup granulated sugar
1 8 oz. Package cream cheese	1 small tub Cool Whip
2 bananas (sliced)	1 tsp vanilla extract
1 pie shell (baked and cooled)	1 can Lucky Leaf Strawberry, Cherry or Blueberry pie filling

PREPARATION:

With electric mixer, cream; sugar, cream cheese and Cool Whip well. With spoon stir in pineapple and sliced bananas. Add vanilla extract. Spoon into cooled baked pie shell and refrigerate for two hours or more. Before serving top with your choice of pie filling

Submitted by:
Irma Bookter KE5UPK

Send your favorite recipe to:
Herman KN5GRK
kn5grk@bellsouth.net



FCC LICENSE INFO SERVICE

The FCC toll-free (WATS) number for Amateur Radio license inquiries - including inquiries about vanity and new call signs. The number, 888-225-5322, will connect callers to the FCC National Call Center, handled by the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau. Amateurs having ULS problems or questions should contact the FCC's ULS Technical Support staff at 202-414-1250 or ulscomm@fcc.gov. Web site:

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>

New callsign information can also be obtained from the ARRL/VEC at 860-594-3000.

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec>

The mailing address to the FCC is: Federal Communications Commission, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg PA 17325-7245